

Lamb
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Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-8 (Cancelled herein).

Claim 9 (Currently Amended) A method of treating a disorder associated with spinal compression comprising administering an effective dose of botulinum toxin directly and solely to the intrinsic muscles of a patient in need of such therapy.

Claims 10-20 (Cancelled herein).

Claim 21 (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 9, wherein said disorder associated with spinal compression is selected from the group consisting of compression neuropathies, facet joint disease of the spine, sciatica, disc herniation, and degenerated discs.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 21, wherein the disorder is disc herniation or degenerated discs.

Claim 23 (Cancelled).

Claim 24 (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 23 9, wherein said botulinum toxin paralyzing agent is botulinum toxin A.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 23 9, wherein said toxin is administered in a dose between 1 and 30 mouse units of toxin per injection site.

Claim 26 (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 23 9, wherein said toxin is administered in a single injection.

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Claim 27 (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 23 2, wherein said toxin is administered via a plurality of injections.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 22, further comprising the administration of a factor selected to enhance healing of the disc.

Claim 29 (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 28, wherein the factor is selected from the group consisting of human growth factor (HGF), nerve growth factor (NGF), epidermal growth factor (EGF), transforming growth factor (TGF), platelet derived growth factor (PDGF), insulin-like growth factor (IGF), fibroblast growth factor (FGF), and bone morphogenic protein (BMP).

Claim 30 (Currently Amended) A method of treating spinal compression comprising penetrating the skin with an acupuncture needle, advancing the acupuncture needle between two vertebrae to provide a mechanical release of the spinal muscles, introducing an injection syringe containing botulinum toxin, and injecting the toxin directly and solely into the intrinsic muscles.